

FRANK D. LUCAS
6TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

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COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

CHIEF OF STAFF: ALLEN B. WRIGHT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3606

October 21, 1994

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WOODWARD, OK 73802
(405) 256-5752

Ms. Lauren Belzin
Acting Director, Leg. Affairs
Federal Communications Comm.
Room 808
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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RECEIVED

JAN 12 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Belzin:

I am writing to request that you review the enclosed letter from a constituent of mine who supports the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative's (NRTC) comments regarding the implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992.

I would appreciate it if you would look into this matter and provide a detailed response to Mr. Kennedy's comments. In particular, I would appreciate if you would address Mr. Kennedy's concern about the discriminatory pricing issue and how it is being affected by the Cable Act's implementation process.

Thank you for looking into this matter. I will be anxiously awaiting a response.

Sincerely,



FRANK D. LUCAS
Member of Congress

FDL/cc

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FRANK D. LUCAS
6TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

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COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

CHIEF OF STAFF: ALLEN B. WRIGHT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3600

October 27, 1994

DISTRICT OFFICES:
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(405) 756-2723

Ms. Lauren Belzin
Acting Director, Leg. Affairs
Federal Communications Comm.
Room 808
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Belzin:

I am writing to request that you review the enclosed letter from a constituent of mine who supports the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative's (NRTC) comments regarding the implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992.

I would appreciate it if you would look into this matter and provide a detailed response to Mr. Kennedy's comments. In particular, I would appreciate if you would address Mr. Kennedy's concern about the discriminatory pricing issue and how it is being affected by the Cable Act's implementation process.

Thank you for looking into this matter. I will be anxiously awaiting a response.

Sincerely,



FRANK D. LUCAS
Member of Congress

PDI./cc

AUG 04 1994

PTSI**PANHANDLE TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, INC.**
A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of PANHANDLE TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.**GARY KENNEDY**
Chief Executive Officer

July 25, 1994

D# 218290

The Honorable Frank Lucas
U. S. House of Representatives
2206 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lucas:

As a telecommunications company, PTSI is an NRTC member providing television programming to customers in rural Oklahoma. We are writing to support the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

PTSI's consumers live in rural areas where families have little choice other than satellite for their television programming. With our consumers living in rural areas where cable service is not available, it is imperative that we have access to all programming at fair rates, analogous to rates paid by cable. At present, PTSI is being charged a higher rate for cable and broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our area.

Discriminatory pricing is not only harmful to the service provider, but it also hurts the consumer due to the higher rates they are forced to pay. Why should cable companies in our area receive programming at lower rates than PTSI?

It was PTSI's understanding that the discriminatory pricing issue had been resolved with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. PTSI supports NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the objectives of Congress as provided in the 1992 Cable Act.

We urge you to support our position at the FCC that action is needed to correct the problems created by discriminatory pricing in the cable and broadcast programming industry.

Very truly yours,



Gary Kennedy
Chief Executive Officer

GK:ch

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

NOV 14 1994

IN REPLY REFER TO:
CN-9401876

The Honorable Robert G. Torricelli
U.S. House of Representatives
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-5061

Dear Congressman Torricelli:

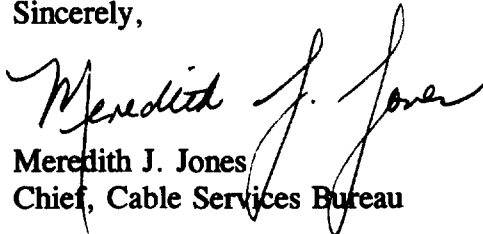
Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituent, Richard Lustgarten, Borough Attorney for the Borough of Fair Lawn, New Jersey, concerning the complaint filed by the Borough of Fair Lawn which the Federal Communications Commission considered to have been filed late. On February 28, 1994, the Borough attempted to fax to the Commission a complaint against Cablevision of New Jersey's September 1, 1993 programming service rates. Given that February 28 was the deadline for receiving such complaints, many other complaints were faxed to the Commission on that date, but some did not arrive until March 1.

The Borough's complaint was one of the late arrivals and was returned as untimely. While the Borough of Fair Lawn did not file an appeal of this action, a number of other complainants appealed and their appeals are pending before the Commission.

In any event, the Commission will be reviewing the cable rates for the Borough of Fair Lawn. This is because only one valid complaint is needed to initiate Commission review of a cable operator's programming service rates, and the Commission did receive two other timely filed programming service complaints directed against the Borough's cable operator.

I trust this response is informative and helpful.

Sincerely,



Meredith J. Jones
Chief, Cable Services Bureau

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

IN REPLY REFER TO:
CN-9405429

NOV 15 1994

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas
U.S. House of Representatives
2206 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3606

Dear Congressman Lucas:

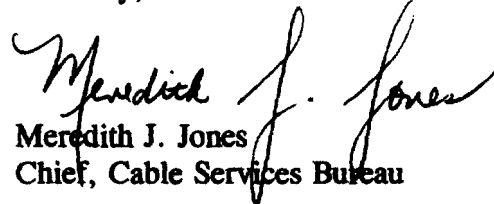
Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Gary Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer of Panhandle Telecommunication Systems, Inc., concerning the implementation and enforcement of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 by the Federal Communications Commission. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Mr. Kennedy expresses his support for the position of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) with respect to the legality under the program access provisions of the 1992 Cable Act of exclusive contracts between vertically integrated cable programmers and direct broadcast satellite (DBS) providers in areas unserved by cable operators. NRTC has asked the Commission to determine that such contracts are prohibited.

NRTC's petition for reconsideration of the Commission's program access rulemaking currently is pending. Consequently, any discussion by Commission personnel concerning this issue outside the context of the rulemaking would be inappropriate. However, you may be assured that the Commission will take into account each of the arguments raised by the NRTC and the other parties to the rulemaking concerning this issue to arrive at a reasoned decision on reconsideration.

I trust that this information will prove both informative and helpful.

Sincerely,


Meredith J. Jones
Chief, Cable Services Bureau